



Patent Application
Attorney Docket No.: 58367.000003

#4

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: :
: :
Vladislav OLCANSKI et al. :
: Group Art Unit: 2152
Appln. No.: 09/996,475 :
: Examiner: Unassigned
Filed: November 20, 2001 :
: :
For: PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES :
BENCHMARKING :
:

Assistant Commissioner
for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In accordance with the duty under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 of each individual associated with the filing and prosecution of the above-identified patent application (hereinafter, "associated individuals") to disclose all information known to that individual to be material to patentability, Applicant(s) hereby submits attached Form PTO-1449 (modified) listing the cited reference. This submission is made in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98 and § 609 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure.

The cited reference, while believed to be of some relevance, are not necessarily considered to teach or suggest any aspect of the invention described and claimed in the above-identified patent application. Applicant(s) hereby expressly

reserves the right to swear behind the effective dates of the cited reference. Applicant(s) further reserves the right to question the relevance, materiality, and/or prior art status of the cited reference in whole, in part, or in combination, subsequent to the filing of this information disclosure statement. This information disclosure statement is also not to be construed as a representation that a search has, or has not, been conducted or that no better art exists. Rather, this information disclosure statement discloses only the best reference of which the associated individuals are aware.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the cited reference, to indicate such consideration by initialing in the space provided next to the cited reference on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 (modified), to sign the initialed Form PTO-1449 (modified), and to return a copy of the same with the next communication to the Applicant(s).

For the convenience of the Examiner in considering the cited reference, a copy of the cited reference is enclosed with this communication. In considering the cited reference, it may be noted by the Examiner that the reference may contain markings, underlinings, and/or other notations. These markings, underlinings, and/or other notations are not to be construed as drawing the Examiner's attention either to selected parts or away from other parts of the cited reference. Any such markings

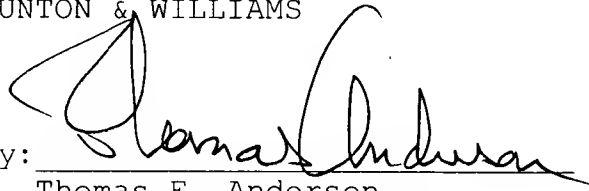
were either present on the copy of the cited reference obtained by the associated individuals, or were made thereon during the study of the reference by the associated individuals.

In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.97(b), this information disclosure statement is being filed (i) within three months of the filing date of the above-identified patent application; (ii) within three months of the date upon which the above-identified patent application entered the national stage as set forth in 37 CFR § 1.491; or (iii) before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merit for the above-identified patent application. Accordingly, no statement or fee is required.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this communication to Deposit Account No. 50-0206, and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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FORM PTO-1449 (REV. 7-80)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE				ATTY. DOCKET NO.: 58367.000003		SERIAL NO.: 09/996,475		
LIST OF MATERIALS CITED BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary) Sheet 1 of 1						INVENTOR'S NAME: Vladislav OLCHANSKI et al.		EXAMINER: Unassigned		
						FILING DATE: November 20, 2001		GROUP ART UNIT: 2152		
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS										
*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER				DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE
	1.									
	2.									
	3.									
	4.									
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS										RECEIVED MAR 21 2002 Technology Center 2100
		DOCUMENT NUMBER		DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	TRANSLATION		
								YES	NO	
OTHER MATERIALS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)										
	5.	V. E. BOVBJERG et al., The Joint Commission - Journal on Quality Improvement, Vol. 26, No. 8, 2000, "Internet-Based Monitoring and Benchmarking in Ambulatory Surgery Centers", pp. 450-465								
	6.									
	7.									
EXAMINER					DATE CONSIDERED					
*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.										